Federal City Performing Arts Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 15, 2000
2801 M St., NW, Washington, DC

Present: Fred Boykin, Jerry Carpenter, Jeff Peirce, Chip Heath, Kris Marshall, Joe Vignali, Steve Herman, Mark Ohnmacht, Thom Gibb, Wallace Whitworth
Absent: Darrell Lewis, Ron Sabacek
Staff: Greg Ruffer, John Perkins
Guests:

I. Call to Order
Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes
Gibb moves to approve the minutes as amended, Vignali seconds. Unanimously approved.

III. Nominations & Elections
Carpenter asked for approval of the Nominations & Elections schedule as presented. Several dates were conflicts and modifications were made to the schedule.

Carpenter moved the acceptance of the schedule as amended, Heath seconds. Unanimous in favor.

IV. Finance Report

Peirce presented the finance report. See report for full details. Peirce reports that the organization is on budget and that the DC Commission on the Arts funds has arrived. The following successes were reported: Membership dues payments are ahead of budget with 154 members on the roster. Marketing costs are below budget due to the team's ability to acquire pro-bono services and aggressively seek out less expensive options for services. Development efforts continue on budget, Capital Club is ahead of budget, Production costs for the Spring concert appear to be on tack, *Little Shop* met budgeted expectations, and merchandise sales are on budget.

Vignali moves to accept the finance report, Herman seconds. Unanimous in favor.

Peirce asks the board to consider how we enforce finance policy to keep costs on target. Ohnmacht indicated that more policies were needed and that two persons must be empowered to enforce them such as the Treasurer and Executive Director. Herman said that we needed to define items for discussion because categories of problems required different solutions rather than global policies. Herman also indicated that the board needed to have structure over special events, and "asks who is in control?" of special events like GMCW Presents. Ohnmacht again insisted that two needed empowerment over all activities to ensure that finance issues are kept in control. Ruffer indicated that in some circumstances the staff needed to be in control of events. Gibb said that the board needs to give clarification of financial policy to the membership; a crib sheet of rules to all purchasers would be helpful. Herman said that there should always be an appeal process for those who violate the policies.

A new honorarium fund proposal details have been communicated to the parties concerned. Herman expressed concern over time taken to conclude the issues before moving on. The board agreed to call a special meeting to handle the fund creation if a positive response was given.

V. Music

Ruffer reported that he had attended the American Choral Director's Meeting and that the PF concert went very well. Ruffer reported that all special appearance guests have agreed to work pro-bono for the spring concert. Cost cutting efforts are going well. The discussion has begun with the 2000-01-season commission work. The June concert will have a musical selection created by Larry Moore who is recovering from an illness and hopes to conclude the arrangement on time.

VI. Director Search Update

Vignali reported that the Search process has moved into the interview period and that a final three candidates have been chosen for review before the chorus and the board. Auditions will begin in March with a 45 min. rehearsal period/

VII. Executive Director's Report

Perkins indicated that a UAL agreement has been settled and Dean Lester has the details. They will offer 10% off the lowest price fare, flights must be point –to-point, local office will meet the best fares (non-internet or not more that one stop). Light My Steps brought in approximately $1400. Perkins reported his work with the production staff and that Metro Teen AIDS was very happy to be involved with our concert. Perkins indicated that unless he was a program manager with data on all accounts in house he would be challenged to keep up with all the ~~budget~~ financial issues of the organization.

VIII. President's Report

Boykin presented the report in Lewis' absence. Appreciation was expressed for the assistance of Wallace Whitworth for his assistance with auction flyer production. Boykin asked the board to contribute toward an item for the auction.

IX. New Business

Boykin presented the idea of creating a new CD for the 20th Anniversary. The board did not support the idea for reasons such as lack of market scope, marketability, not enough music at the studio pending release, etc.

Marshall raised the San Francisco Boycott issue. The board did not agree with a boycott but rather GALA might be better suited to lead some event or show of support. A letter will be sent to GALA suggesting such an organized expression.

X. Old Business

- Whitman Walker Clinic mentioned GMCW's performance at their recent volunteer appreciation event in their newsletter.
- Heath expressed his appreciation for the Board's support of the Light My Steps event.
- Dinners over the Potomac are being organized. The key will be getting people to the dinners.

XI. Adjournment

Gibb moves for adjournment, Ohnmacht seconds, Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Carpenter -- Secretary, FCPAA